

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph **[0066]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0066] The thermal energy E_{th} created in a subcritical core by an external neutron and absorbed is:

$$E_{th} = E_{fis}\varphi^*/(vr_0) \quad (8)$$

in which $r_0 = (1 - k_{eff})/k_{eff}$ is the level of subcriticality; φ^* is the neutron importance; E_{fis} is the energy supplied during a fission reaction; v is the average number of fission neutrons. The neutron importance depends a priori on the incident particle energy, i.e., $\varphi^* = \varphi^*(E_p)$. However, in some systems, it is observed that it is possible to assimilate it with a constant. The thermal power of the subcritical core (if energy released in the target is not taken into account) is:

$$P_{th} = (\varphi^* \eta_a Y_n / E_p) P_{cons} E_{fis} / (vr_0) \quad (9)$$